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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO THE FRIDAY BULLETIN

AUGUST 19, 1993

BRAIN RESEARCH SHOWS LEARNING BY EXPERIENCE BEST TEACHER

BY CYNTHIA PRINGLE, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The title of her bestseller, "Making Connections: Teaching and the Human Brain," may sound simple, but the work of Dr. Renate Caine (Education)—to change the way teachers teach and to improve students' learning—over the past several years has been anything but easy.

Although the book she wrote with husband Geoffrey Caine is catching on like wildfire across the nation, it's been challenging for the Caines to persuade teachers and administrators that new research on the human brain must bring change in educational services.

Within the last year, however, Renate Caine has found fulfillment helping teachers overcome their fears of breaking with traditional classroom methods and assisting them in building a sense of community among one another, so that they work cooperatively on lesson plans at Park View Middle School in Yucaipa. Aided by a grant from the school district, she serves as a coach for 17 teachers there.

She encourages the teachers to draw on one another's experiences and knowledge, urging them to "get out of the delivery model, in which teachers have the knowledge and pass it on to students" in traditional exercises that demand memorization. Instead, Caine expects teachers to act as a team that creates thematic lessons, guides students through experiential situations and draws on expertise from those in their community.

If the topic is the Middle Ages, for example, Caine says it should be "recreated in some meaningful form," so that students learn about a wide range of issues, including health care, wars and cultural events pertinent to that period. Experiential learning is emphasized greatly.

Under the brain-based system of learning, instructors in science and literature might combine a lesson plan and solicit assistance from a community board member with expertise in art to round out a presentation.

"They would use their organizational skills to create an authentic experience for the students where their embedded abilities would emerge," she says. An artistic child in the classroom might draw the clothing of the era while other students focused on different tasks.

Such an undertaking would require the teachers to negotiate with one another about where "the story goes," she notes, and then permit the children to discover lessons for themselves.

This is the most difficult transition for teachers to make, says Caine, because "they don't know how to step back and allow children to learn."

One of her colleagues in the university's Center for Research in Integrative Learning and Teaching, Dr. Sam Crowell (Education),

did just that in a Sacramento-area school he is consulting. Re-enacting the Donner Party's travels during the pioneer days, the Dry Creek Elementary School third- and fourth-grade class recreated a western scene with costumes and artifacts gathered by the school and the community.

"They solved problems, asked questions, found new ways of doing things that made them reflect upon and understand the challenges of the people of the Old West," Caine says. "This is the kind of learning we advocate. It makes it real for the children."

The brain-based learning method also has enhanced the nurturing environment of the school, she says. "We're seeing a bonding with the students—a lovingness and caring for each other that is quite remarkable," she says, noting that this particular Sacramento elementary school has a large population of children from families with low socio-economic backgrounds as well as learning disabled students. "We're seeing a real shift with the teachers, too. They love being there."



"OUTDOOR" EDUCATION—A teacher talks to Dry Creek Elementary School youngsters near Sacramento about the Donners, the 1840s emigrant family that practiced cannibalism—feeding on members who had starved to death—to survive a winter in the Sierras.

MCKINNEY SCHOLARSHIP TO HELP STUDENTS REALIZE "CHILDHOOD" DREAMS

Clara McKinney's 60 years of devotion to teaching so inspired a cadre of admirers—most of them former students—in her hometown of Barstow when she retired two years ago that they decided to mount a scholarship drive in her honor.

Knowing her desire to help students pursue careers in early childhood education, they worked intensely for five months, and on her 88th birthday presented her with \$10,000.

Since then McKinney has overseen the committee of volunteers, who have been managing the fund and searching for an educational institution to administer it.

Fate intervened this past spring when Christina Tobiason, a Cal State student who hopes to become an elementary school teacher, telephoned by pure chance a friend of McKinney's during the university's Alumni Annual Fund Drive. Alumna Marilyn Van Norman, a 1992 graduate with a degree in social science, encouraged university officials to meet with McKinney regarding the Cal State education program.

Dean Jean Ramage (Education) and Pamela Langford (Development) made a presentation to the Barstow committee, which was impressed with the depth of the education program and the university's plans to expand. McKinney, who is a graduate of the University of Redlands, subsequently chose Cal State as the home for her scholarship.

McKinney and the committee were pleased to "partner" with an institution that would value the contribution, notes Langford.

"This is reflective of the collaborative effort of a current student, an alumna and the citizens served by Cal State," she remarks. "That's what the university's Partnership 2000 effort is all about."

The 1993 Clara B. McKinney Scholarship was awarded last spring to Cal State student Rochelle Himmelrick before the \$10,270 balance of the endowed fund was officially transferred to the CSUSB Foundation.

LATIN SOCIETY PLAYS CAL STATE



The Latin Society will wind up the Cal State, San Bernardino Summer Entertainment Series for 1993 when the popular local group performs on Wednesday, Aug. 25. The free outdoor show begins at 7 p.m. on the Lower Commons Plaza.

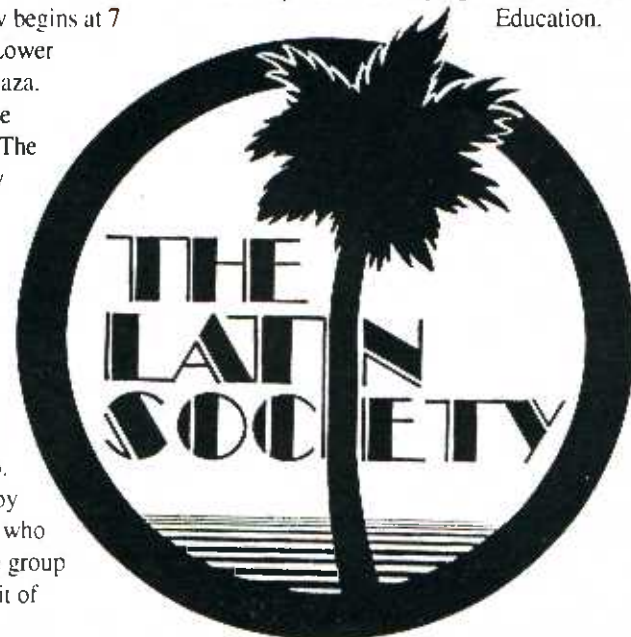
Since the early 1970s, the Latin Society has been

entertaining audiences at weddings and black-tie functions throughout the Inland Empire. It was during the '70s that the band played at El Crescendo in San Bernardino before the club closed several years ago.

The band was founded by bass guitarist Moe Estevene, who has said in years past that the group owes its long life to the "spirit of familia."

Cal State employees and their families and friends are encouraged to bring a picnic basket and come early.

The university's Summer Entertainment Series is sponsored by the Associated Students, Inc., the Student Union, the Cal State Upward Bound program and Extended Education.



BEING ENVIRONMENTALLY CORRECT IS EASY AND FUN

BY SAM ROMERO, PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSISTANT

The other morning I woke up nice and early and popped into my oven one of those tasty Pepperidge Farm Croissant Crust Pizzas with Pepperoni, planning to take it to work and eat for lunch.

I really, really, *really* like Pepperidge Farm Croissant Crust Pizzas with Pepperoni. The pizza is rectangular in shape, which I like because it's different from the common triangle-shaped pizza. Most of all, I bake the crust to just the right level of crispness on the outside, and leave the pepperoni and 100 percent natural cheese soft and chewy. For work, I put the pizza back into its original packaging and dropped the whole thing into a plastic produce bag to keep it very fresh ... Mmmm ...

When I arrived at work I placed the pizza on top of my filing cabinet with every intention of putting it in our office's mini-refrigerator, so the pepperoni wouldn't spoil and poison me later.

Unfortunately, I forgot. Unfortunately, five-foot high, five-drawer filing cabinets aren't high enough to keep certain insects away for even an hour.

And unfortunately, "More ants live on the earth than any other insect," according to the encyclopedia, half of them on campus. I think, half of those—I'm sure of it—were living on my Pepperidge Farm Croissant Crust Pizza with Pepperoni, which I was looking very forward to eating and had no plans of sharing with anyone. Or *anything*. Including ants! Which for some reason left alone my slightly open bag of quite sugary M & Ms that also sat on top of the

The key concept to remember in ridding the world of ants is that the experience should bring deep and indescribable pleasure, a lot like the pleasure derived from putting your in-laws on a plane to Antarctica following a "little" 37-week visit.

"Now, I don't want you to take this personally," I told my colony of ants on the day they devoured my pizza, "but I'm going to kill you, okay?"

Ants live in a soundless world. They communicate by tapping each other's antennae or emitting one of 10 or 20 chemical odors that tell them what's happening. Consequently, they ignored me, of course, and kept on marching up and down the edge of my filing cabinet carrying off pieces of pizza as if my own mother had told them, "Eat! Eat! You're skinny as toothpicks!"

Maybe the most socially acceptable means of exterminating ants, I suppose, are those taught by our own Dr. David Polcyn (Biology), who knows how to exterminate without using chemicals hostile to the environment.

However, I've never talked with Dr. Polcyn. So over the years I've developed my own environmentally friendly methods (which, incidentally, seem much more pleasurable than any ideas a science professor could dream up).

Drinking water may not be so good for humans, for example, but—ecologically

THE BULLETIN BOARD

JUNIOR HIGH GOODBYE

Bridge/Kyo, a summer program for Japanese and American junior high-age students closed Aug. 9 with a barbecue featuring songs and dances by the students and a special thank-you to their host families.

Twenty-four Japanese students from Yasuda Junior High School and 15 American students from the Inland Empire spent two weeks learning each other's language, engaging in cultural experiences, tasting native foods and taking field trips to San Diego and Disneyland. The program is coordinated by Extended Education's American Culture and Language Program.

speaking—it is perfect for attempting to drown ants. I say "attempting" because ants have been known to survive in water for as long as two weeks.

Freezing ants to death was a method I developed as a boy, although I confess now that any deaths resulting from this technique were really just scientific experiments gone bad. My true goal in freezing ants was to follow a certain recipe: Take one ant. Lure carefully into lid of ungreased JIF Peanut Butter jar. Place contents in freezer for 30 to 60 seconds. Freeze. Remove and set stiff ant on warm stove top until thawed.

I ran this experiment successfully many times and followed it up

with ancient and barbaric ant sacrifices into a medium flame. After many years of experimenting, I still say that the best way to kill ants is the straightforward way. Now, before I share this I

want you to know that I'm really a very benevolent guy, and that if I "sound" belligerent about ants I'm just following the example of David the Psalmist, who hated his enemies

"with a perfect hate." I interpret this to mean that it's perfectly okay for me to hate ants and flatten mine little suckers with mine foot or bare fist after I have announced to them, "You're dead!" This is extremely pleasurable, and when the righteous have saved a piece of pizza from the wicked mandibles of an ant, it is as close to a spiritual experience as some come.

JOHNSTON'S "HERON" READY FOR DEDICATION

A 10-foot bronze sculpture, interpreting a heron taking flight, has been shipped to Yasuda Women's University in Hiroshima, Japan and will be part of the Sept. 3 dedication of a new building at the Japanese university.

Fashioned by Richard Johnston (Art) in his Colton studio, the 6'x5'x10' fabricated bronze form is mounted on a concrete pedestal and weighs approximately 400 pounds. Johnston was commissioned by the university to craft the work.

Describing the sculpture, which is another gesture of goodwill between the Cal State and Yasuda universities, Johnston says, "It is a dramatically abstracted flowing form, which the metal is particularly adept at accomplishing. The material suits itself to warm, muscular types of forms."

"I attempted to create and capture the essence of flying, so it is very energetic. It has a very fine, precise finish to its surface—there is no texture."

The heron image was selected by the artist during his travels throughout Japan in February. His imagination was captivated by the 15th century architecture of the Castle of the White Heron. The mythology equated with that Japanese landmark pleased the Yasuda University officials, he says.

The sculpture will "serve as a symbol of the friendship between the two campuses" and will be placed in a prominent location near the fine arts building, Johnston says.

The Japanese university is part of the Yasuda Institute of Education, which recently donated \$925,000 to Cal State, San Bernardino for a new Extended Education classroom and conference building that will be built next year. The universities have had a student and faculty exchange program for several years.



A FRIENDSHIP TAKES WING—In his Colton studio, Richard Johnston (Art) refines a weld on the 10-foot-high flying Heron sculpture. The artist's first international commission now awaits official unveiling during the dedication of a new building and courtyard at CSUSB's sister campus—Yasuda Women's University in Japan.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, AUG.
25

Music.

The Latin Society plays Latin-flavored oldies and big band favorites to close out university's 1993 Summer Entertainment Series. 7 p.m., Lower Commons Plaza. Free. Ext. 7053.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Dr. Pete Robertshaw (Anthropology) presented a slide show of archaeological excavations to two sixth-grade classes at Mary Tone Elementary School on Aug. 4.

WEDDING BELLS

The campus community extends hearty congratulations to Soncia Reagins (Student Union) who married Leslie Kyle Lilly on Aug. 7 at Lake Arrowhead Community Presbyterian Church. The newlyweds will make their home in San Bernardino.

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